

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to take a moment to thank you for your patience and cooperation throughout this most challenging and extraordinary year.

As the District superintendent, parent of an enrolled student and as a member of this community, I understand the many challenges that our families are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic and appreciate your efforts to support your child's education.

There has been constant change throughout this entire year, and it has been so encouraging to witness how our community has come together for our students.

Over the past few weeks, we have seen COVID-19 continue to spread in our community. In fact, the Pennsylvania Department of Health has reported that last week Dauphin County was in the substantial level of community transmission and the county incidence rate had continued to increase.

Fortunately, the numbers of positive cases among the 12,000 plus students and staff members in our 19 school buildings has remained relatively low. In addition, our current understanding is that the local hospital system is able to support treatment at this time.

While our families' support for the robust health and safety protocols we have in place have been successful in preventing a spread amongst the students and staff in our buildings, if the numbers in Dauphin County are not brought under control we may have to prepare for a pivot to remote learning in the near future.

It is important to understand that given the numbers of positive cases in our local area, there is a possibility that the District will have to transition to remote learning in order to continue to protect our students, staff, and community. If there is a transition to remote learning, staff will continue to report to their buildings and will conduct remote learning from their classrooms.

To be clear, we are **NOT** announcing a transition to remote learning at this time. We think we have made the right decision for the time being.

Rather, we are being practical. We are watching all relevant indicators and we want to be transparent that a shift to full remote learning may become necessary as we move forward.

We understand that changes in the instructional model have a huge impact on everyone, and we will provide the earliest possible notice to you if the District has to move to remote learning.

The Thanksgiving holiday is a time to reflect, and I can share with you that I am thankful for being part of this strong community that has united to overcome the many challenges we have faced so far this year.

All of us – young and old, healthy and those with an underlying medical condition – have a part to play in reducing the spread of this virus so that the students can return to their classrooms fulltime.

I urge all members of our community to take this responsibility seriously, and wear masks, practice social distancing, and take other appropriate precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

I realize this can be particularly challenging over the holidays, but the actions that each of us take now will impact the number of new positive cases in the days ahead.

By working together to limit exposure and spread in our community as a whole, we hope to be able to get all our kids back to full in-person instruction as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation and enjoy the Thanksgiving – safely.

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